

SHelter TO SOLDIER



*Saving Lives,
Two at a Time™*

SHELTER TO SOLDIER

SAVING LIVES, TWO AT A TIME™

"My biggest struggle outside of the military was dealing with the aftermath of the trauma, anxiety, nightmares and night terrors, paranoia, not to forget hypervigilance too. Overall, my service buddy whom you may refer to as my service dog has made life easier to navigate. I am beginning to regain the confidence and independence I had in myself prior to my trauma and that is big for me.

I don't think there is enough space in the world to write all the words of gratitude I feel from the impact the sponsors and supporters have in one little human like me.

I am really overjoyed to have been blessed and chosen by a wonderful family at Shelter to Soldier. To any and all future supporters as a veteran having newly completed the program I will say that it is definitely one journey along your life's path that will be simply unforgettable. Even though times may look dark, gloomy, and downright daunting at times just remember that you DESERVE to live this life abundantly and more importantly you get to do it with a friend who will love you through it all."

— Shaneka, USN



Shaneka and Max's journey together was made possible by

Logomark
Different by design



EVERY DAY 17 US Veterans

On Average Die by Suicide

(U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)

Over 500,000 servicemen and women are coping with invisible wounds, ranging from depression to post-traumatic stress disorder, while 320,000 individuals are suffering from severe brain trauma (Wounded Warrior Project).



EVERY DAY Approximately 1,800 Dogs **Are Euthanized Nationwide**

(American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Each year, America sees approximately 3.3 million dogs enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide. Shelter to Soldier provides them a future with a purpose and a life that is fulfilled by their bond with a veteran in need.



SHELTER TO SOLDIER

A 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

Shelter to Soldier is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that adopts dogs from local rescues and shelters and trains them to become psychiatric service dogs for post-9/11 veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST). The program also places emotional support animals (ESAs) with active-duty military, veterans, and first responders in need and deploys the Shelter to Soldier Canine Ambassadors, a team of therapy dogs, to provide visits of love and comfort to local military personnel, veterans, and their families.

SAVING LIVES



AT A TIME

2024-25

MEDIA | SHARE THE IMPACT



Media Coverage



Media Partnership

In partnership with 91X, Dog Tales On the Road shares the success stories of the Shelter to Soldier program with the community weekly, on air, while also serving as a platform for quarterly fundraising events engaging community partners.



Thank You Soiree



Each year, Shelter to Soldier presents an evening of thanks to our major donors and community partners who help to keep the mission moving forward to serve more homeless dogs and veterans in need. Guests enjoy small bites and cocktails while celebrating the success stories our sponsors make possible.



Thank you to **Farmer & The Seahorse** for generously hosting and partially sponsoring this special event.



Sisterhood of Service



Our 3rd Annual Sisterhood of Service event, presented by L'Auberge Del Mar in partnership with Foundation for Women Warriors, united female veterans and servicewomen for a day of wellness, connection, and empowerment, including ocean view yoga, meaningful networking, and inspiring speakers.

2024 Be the Light

THE CHARITY GALA

NET FUNDS RAISED
\$311,531



NET FUNDS RAISED
\$66,735



6th Annual Saving Lives, One Swing at a Time Golf Tournament at Singing Hills Golf Resort at Sycuan helped us raise critical funds to contribute to our lifesaving mission.



NET FUNDS RAISED
\$74,100

Together with our community of runners and supporters — human and canine — we celebrated the unique and special love only dogs provide with our first ever Gratitude Festival for Dogs and raised critical funds to fuel our impact.



HIGHLIGHTS & FUNDRAISING
EVENTS

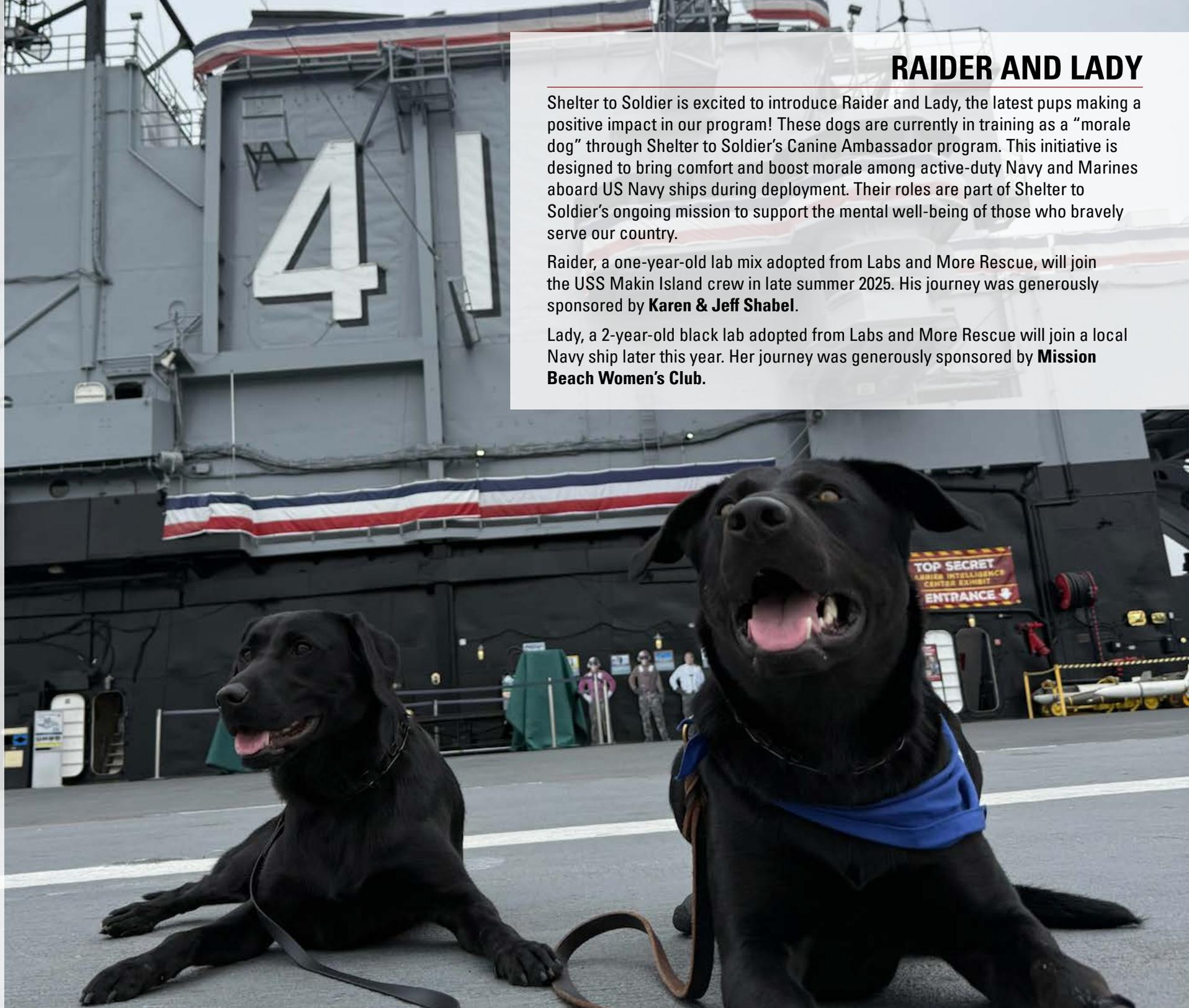
MORALE DOGS PROGRAM

RAIDER AND LADY

Shelter to Soldier is excited to introduce Raider and Lady, the latest pups making a positive impact in our program! These dogs are currently in training as a “morale dog” through Shelter to Soldier’s Canine Ambassador program. This initiative is designed to bring comfort and boost morale among active-duty Navy and Marines aboard US Navy ships during deployment. Their roles are part of Shelter to Soldier’s ongoing mission to support the mental well-being of those who bravely serve our country.

Raider, a one-year-old lab mix adopted from Labs and More Rescue, will join the USS Makin Island crew in late summer 2025. His journey was generously sponsored by **Karen & Jeff Shabel**.

Lady, a 2-year-old black lab adopted from Labs and More Rescue will join a local Navy ship later this year. Her journey was generously sponsored by **Mission Beach Women’s Club**.





RED STAR Sponsor

RED STAR Sponsorship

Shelter to Soldier will adopt a dog from a local shelter, give it a special name to reflect your support, train the dog over 12-18 months and then place the dog with a post-9/11 veteran suffering from PTSD, TBI, and/or military sexual trauma (MST). You will also have a special part in the graduation ceremony for the service dog and veteran.

3+ Shelter to Soldier Dogs



Linden Root Dickinson Foundation



Nanci & Jack Simkin



2+ Shelter to Soldier Dogs



Rose Gonzales



1+ Shelter to Soldier Dog



Anonymous

Deborah Ashton

Sandra Zarcades

Sean Coccia



Michelle Mazzoni

Greg & Chris Hlavaty



Elizabeth Mueller

Dr. Fred and Kim Pike



Karen & Jeff Shabel



Joshua Volen



SPONSORSHIPS | MAKE A DIFFERENCE

\$22,000

Each service dog/veteran team costs our program an average of \$22,000 from adoption to graduation. This includes the adoption, housing, medical care, grooming, food, treats, training, training equipment, bedding, toys, testing, handling training, service dog equipment and documents, graduation and materials for the veteran recipient and service dog pair.

Shelter to Soldier dogs are trained over 12-18 months to be highly obedient and handler-focused in all environments, to ignore distractions, and to mitigate symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression through task-related work.

Some commands learned:

- Watch
- Front
- Behind
- Center
- Touch
- Closer
- Right
- Under



Shelter to Soldier visits local shelters and rescue groups and evaluates dogs 11 months to 1.5 years of age, of any breed, weighing 45-70 lbs, and in good health for our service dog training program.

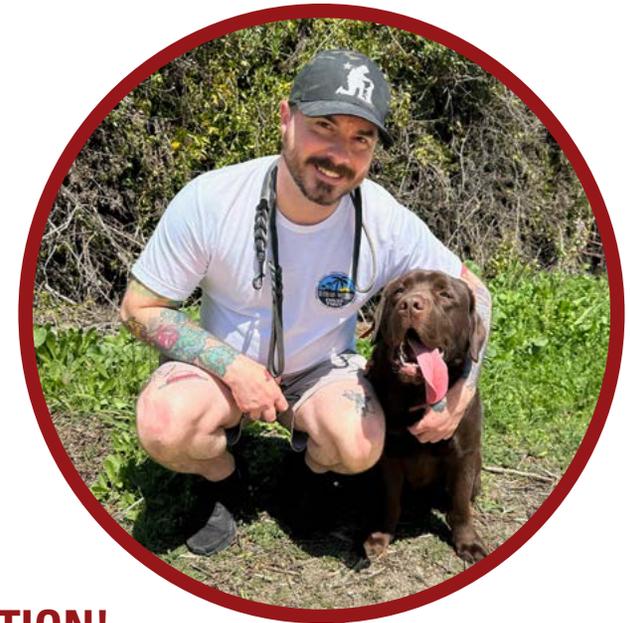
We evaluate temperament for: desire to work and have a job, food or moderate toy drive, the way the dog handles new environments, people and noises, and an overall stable and social demeanor.





Upon qualified match – **veteran handlers train for an average of 7 months** time depending upon handling abilities and how well the team picks up on training.

Handlers learn to communicate effectively with their dog to create a loving bond while learning all commands and service dog laws/regulations to prepare them for a life with a service animal.



GRADUATION!

We celebrate the dedication of the dog and handler once they successfully complete all necessary training and pass required tests.

This is where the journey truly begins for the veteran/service dog team!



Three tests are required prior to completion of training:

- Canine Good Citizen
- Public Access Test
- Task-Related Test

**ONE YEAR
+ \$22,000**

**= TWO LIVES
SAVED!**

(EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 2026)

FUND A NEED



Psychiatric Service Dog | Training Program

Support of this fund allows us to provide safe housing for each service dog recruit, fair wages for our service dog training staff, and off-site training opportunities to prepare our recruits for life as service dogs in the real-world. Shelter to Soldier service dogs have enjoyed training outings at Universal Studios, the San Diego Zoo, and local dining and shopping sites as they sharpen their skills and task work.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE DOG TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTORS:

**Linden Root Dickinson Foundation
Friese Family Foundation**

**Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Foundation
Peek Family Foundation**

Shelter to Soldier Food Pantry | Rescue Pups

This fund provides nourishment for our hard-working rescue pups throughout their journey to becoming psychiatric service dogs for veterans in need. From adoption through graduation, the food pantry provides each dog with necessary supplements, training treats to reward all of the great behaviors they are shaping, and enrichment items to keep them stimulated and engaged between training sessions.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 FOOD PANTRY GRANTORS:

**The Country Friends
Navy Federal Credit Union
Michael B. O'Donoghue Foundation Fund
Petco Love**



Medical Fund | Veterinary Care

Your support provides routine veterinary care for our 30 dogs in training as well as spay/neuter surgeries, dental cleanings, and other more major veterinary needs that may become necessary during the dogs' enrollment in our program.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 FOOD PANTRY GRANTORS:

Anonymous Donor for Supporting Our 2024 Medical Fund



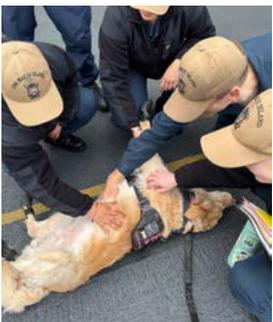
Continuing Education Fund | Best Practices

In order to stay current with best practices in service dog training for veterans with invisible wounds, our team of trainers attends the Association of Service Dog Providers Conference annually in July. Your support underwrites their flights, hotel, conference fees and a per diem food budget.



Shelter to Soldier Canine Ambassadors | Therapy Dog Team

Over 500,000 servicemen and women live with invisible wounds like depression and PTSD. Certified Therapy Dogs and their handlers provide comfort to veterans and active-duty military. These Canine Ambassadors participate in various activities, including attending interviews, strengthening veterans' handling skills, visiting military families, and assisting in trauma recovery therapy. They've also boosted morale on San Diego's amphibious assault ships, offering love and comfort to service members facing tough conditions.



Shelter to Soldier is proud to have 8 therapy dog teams serving our community as Canine Ambassadors thanks to the support of donors Canine Comfort and

Logomark
Different by design

FUND A NEED

\$50,000 +

SDBotox

Linden Root Dickinson Foundation

Logomark

UNITE Hair

\$20,000 +

Calpine Energy Solutions
CRC Cares Foundation
Cox Charities
C.W. Driver
Frontwave Foundation

Friese Family Foundation
Knopf Family Foundation
Petco Love
Karen & Jeff Shabel
Sheila Rose Trust

Summit Subaru El Cajon
Sycuan Casino Resort
TCWGlobal
The Elizabeth Jane Ennis-Thomas Trust

Triple S Steel/Maas Hansen
Jennie V Foundation
Vulcan Materials Foundation

\$10,000 +

The Promotions Department
Deborah Ashton
San Diego Foundation
Elizabeth Mueller
Avion Law
The Hero Company

The Country Friends
Jamul Casino Resort
Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Foundation
The Jeffrey Family Foundation
Don Jarvis
The Cushman Foundation

Mary Margaret Darling Trust
Lee S Monroe Foundation
Roy and Marian Holleman Foundation
William A Hazel Family Foundation
Olson Family Fund

Triple-S Steel
Fed Vet Construction
Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
Sanders 2004 Charitable Trust

\$5,000 +

Wilsey Asset Management
Frontwave Credit Union
Bill Howe
Pegasus
Pam Burkholz
Griffin Funding

Goodrich Family Foundation
California State Society Children of the American Revolution
Patricia Perry
Daniel E. Crandell Survivor's Trust
Scott A. and Elizabeth V. Christensen Charitable Foundation

Harry & Judith Collins Foundation Fund
Michael & Joan Wagner
Peek Family Charitable Foundation Fund
Barbara Huebert
Susan Morrow Legacy Foundation

Bethel Family Charitable Fund
The Gibney Family Foundation
Bridget Rose Foundation
Evelyn Favero-Heald
Kaiser Permanente San Diego

COMMUNITY | THANK YOU

Thank you to our community partners who continue to support our program and our service dogs in training.



PARTNERS | SHARING THE MISSION

GRADUATED | TEAMS

Since our inception in 2012, Shelter to Soldier has adopted **141** dogs for our program and placed **88** psychiatric service dogs/**28** emotional support animals with veterans in need.

Shelter to Soldier currently has **34** dogs in training at the Wings of Freedom Training Campus in Oceanside, CA.

MASHEELA + SHELTON | AUGUST 2025

Sponsored by Cox Communications

SHAWN + BELLA | AUGUST 2025

Sponsored by Logomark

JONATHAN + JUPITER (ESA) | JULY 2025

Sponsored by Dempsey Construction

TOM + LIBBY | JULY 2025

Sponsored by Karen and Jeff Shabel

EGLANTINA + REGGIE | JULY 2025

Sponsored by Griffin Funding

JUAN + WALDEN (ESA) | MAY 2025

Sponsored by Linden Root Dickinson Foundation

JONATHAN + JETT | MAY 2025

Sponsored by Lisbeth Eddy

KELLEY + KOA | MAY 2025

Sponsored by Jolie Budau

BRANDON + POOCHA NACUA | APRIL 2025

Sponsored by the Los Angeles Rams

AUTUMN + CARLIE | APRIL 2025

Sponsored by Dr. Fred & Kim Pike

ROBERT + ANNIE (ESA) | APRIL 2025

Sponsored by Matsuri & Seven Woods Foundations

EDGAR + BANDIT (ESA) MARCH 2025

Sponsored by Peek Family Foundation

KEVIN + INDY | JANUARY 2025

Sponsored by Westlake Realty

BELINDA + HAMBURGER | DECEMBER 2024

Sponsored by Peek Family Foundation

ARTHUR + POSH | DECEMBER 2024

Sponsored by UNITE

SHANEKA + MAX | DECEMBER 2024

Sponsored by Logomark

JEREMY + JUPITER (ESA) | AUGUST 2024

Sponsored by Dempsey Construction

CORBIN + ROCKY (ESA) | AUGUST 2024

Sponsored by Avion Law

ANTONIO + STELLA | AUGUST 2024

Sponsored by Tea 3 Foundation

TREVOR + PALMER | AUGUST 2024

Sponsored by Melanie Mayer

JERMAINE + SALLY | AUGUST 2024

Sponsored by Nanci & Jack Simkin

RICARDO + GOOSE | AUGUST 2024

Sponsored by Team Keeping Finn

JESSICA + WAGNER | JUNE 2024

Sponsored by Subaru, USA

TIMOTHY + OLIVER | MAY 2024

Sponsored by David C. Copley Foundation

TERRANCE + DUG | MARCH 2024

Sponsored by San Diego Woman's Club

JORDAN + BARNEY | DECEMBER 2023

Sponsored by Barnes Firm

TAYLOR + SHELTON | DECEMBER 2023

Sponsored by COX Communications

LAURIE + TROOPER | DECEMBER 2023

Sponsored by Logomark

ADRIANNA + DEMPSEY | NOVEMBER 2023

Sponsored by Dempsey Construction

AARON + MURPHY | OCTOBER 2023

Sponsored by UNITE

JESSICA + LIBBY | SEPTEMBER 2023

Sponsored by Karen and Jeff Shabel

RON + DANTE | AUG 2023

Sponsored by The Boeing Company

BLAKE + EDDIE | JULY 2023

Sponsored by REACT Foundation

CLARISSA + SULLY (ESA) | JULY 2023

Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Charitable

LINDSEY + HARU | JUNE 2023

Sponsored by the San Diego Women's Club

ODLANIER + XANDER (ESA) | MAY 2023

Sponsored by Tea3 Foundation

MELANIE + LOLA (ESA) | MAY 2023

Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Charitable Foundation San Diego

MERAKI + BARLEY | MAY 2023

Sponsored by Mollie Carter & Kevin Mignogna

NELSON + MAJOR (ESA) | MARCH 2023

Sponsored by The Barnes Firm

SEAMUS + CHIEF (ESA) | FEB 2023

Sponsored by Griffin Funding

MICHAEL + ZEUS | OCT 2022

Sponsored by Tea3 Foundation

TODD + RILEY | NOV 2022

Sponsored by Tea3 Foundation

TODD + JACK | DEC 2022

Sponsored by Cox Communications

COREY + ANGUS | MAY 2022 (*RETIRED)

Sponsored by Matsuri & Seven Woods Foundations

ANONYMOUS + JASPER | MAY 2022

Sponsored by React Foundation

KELLY + JAGGER | MARCH 2022

Sponsored by Boeing

RICHIE + MILKDUD | JAN 2022

Sponsored by Morrow Legacy Foundation

PETER + KOBE | JAN 2022

Sponsored by Boeing

TEAMS | IN TRAINING



STEPHANIE + PHOEBE

Sponsored by Cox Communications

REBECCA + GAIL

Sponsored by Elizabeth Mueller

MARCUS + DIEGO

Sponsored by Linden Root Dickinson Foundation

SHAWN + BODIE

Sponsored by Logomark

DIANA + REMI

Sponsored by Vulcan Materials Company

ANASTASIA + POLINA

Sponsored by Linden Root Dickinson Foundation

MARIA + LENNOX

Sponsored by Michelle Mazzoni

NIC + ERNIE

Sponsored by Veterans Audiology

DONNA + FORREST

Sponsored by Subaru

Our 2025 goal is to place 20 psychiatric service dogs and emotional support animals with deserving veterans and adopt 25 new dogs into the program.

Kelley + Koa
Sponsored by Jolie Budau

"My service dog has become such a positive factor in my life."

"I'm a retired Major who served 27 years; 7 as an enlisted communications Marine, 4 as a logistics officer, and 16 as an artillery officer. I deployed to the Middle East several times and to Europe and Africa; multiple combat deployments. I was dealing with depression, but didn't accept that I had an issue. Sometimes I would get into a downward spiral, just going over things I couldn't control, or wasting time on things I didn't know all the facts about. Once I got into these episodes, it was difficult to get out. I wanted a service dog to help lighten my mood and environment.

If I start to get depressed, he senses it and engages me to play or do some kind of activity. Just having him around brings a smile to my face. I am so grateful to all the sponsors and supporters who make this incredible [organization] as successful as it is. Thank you so much! There are few places to make an impact on the lives of Veterans and rescue dogs at the same time, Shelter to Soldier exists to do this."

— Kelley Watts, USMC

OUR PACK | LEADERSHIP + TEAMWORK



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Nicky Moore / Animal Behavior College - Certified Dog Trainer, Bachelors of Science in Business Management

CO-FOUNDERS

Graham Bloem | *Animal Behavior College - Certified Dog Trainer*

Kyrié Bloem | *Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Science*

Krys Holc | *Certified Public Accountant*

Shelter to Soldier is proud to employ 2 veterans, 3 military spouses, and 3 children of veterans.

Shelter to Soldier is committed to operating our service dog training program in an efficient manner, utilizing the skills from our certified team of dog trainers to take shelter dogs with no training to the elite level of training required of them to become psychiatric service dogs.

Shelter to Soldier's training department has accreditations, certifications and memberships through organizations like:



ANIMAL CARE SUPERVISOR
Lauree Gollner



Shelby Burdette

DOG TRAINERS



Hailey Isbel



Kayla Buford



Emily Andrada



Shelter to Soldier provides lifelong training support to all graduates of the program, free of charge.



David Moss, LCSW
STS Mental Health Liaison



Tommy Moore
US Navy, Veteran & Community Outreach Representative



Callie Espinoza
Veteran Services and Outreach Coordinator

MAKING A WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Shelter to Soldier is paving the way of support for veterans on the homefront. With the growth of our program this year, we have expanded our services to veterans and have created job opportunities for some of our graduates.

INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Approved veteran applicants have the opportunity to attend one-on-one therapy sessions with our mental health liaison, David Moss LCSW, at no cost to the patient.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & RESOURCE CONNECTIONS

Shelter to Soldier has expanded our network with the Veterans Administration and supporting clinics, enhancing our collaborative efforts with case managers and nurse practitioners at Southern California VA Hospitals, and veteran advocates at regional Vet Centers.

SUPPORTING OUR GRADUATES LONGTERM

Though a joyous new beginning in a positive direction, graduation for our veterans can come with challenges. We work together with the training team to engage and support our graduates to encourage and promote their continued success. We are proud to share exclusive social opportunities such as theater tickets, concert tickets, sporting events, museums, and more donated to us by our community partners as well as host social events where graduates can come together in a safe environment to continue training and share their journey with their service dog.

FINANCING | A MATCH



HOW DONATIONS ARE USED

Shelter to Soldier has amazing community support and a strong volunteer team behind us. Thanks to these relationships, we are able to direct the vast majority of revenue to programs and services. Our steady growth has allowed us to build a strong leadership and administrative team to run the program efficiently. Each dollar donated has a direct impact on the success of our dogs and veterans in need.

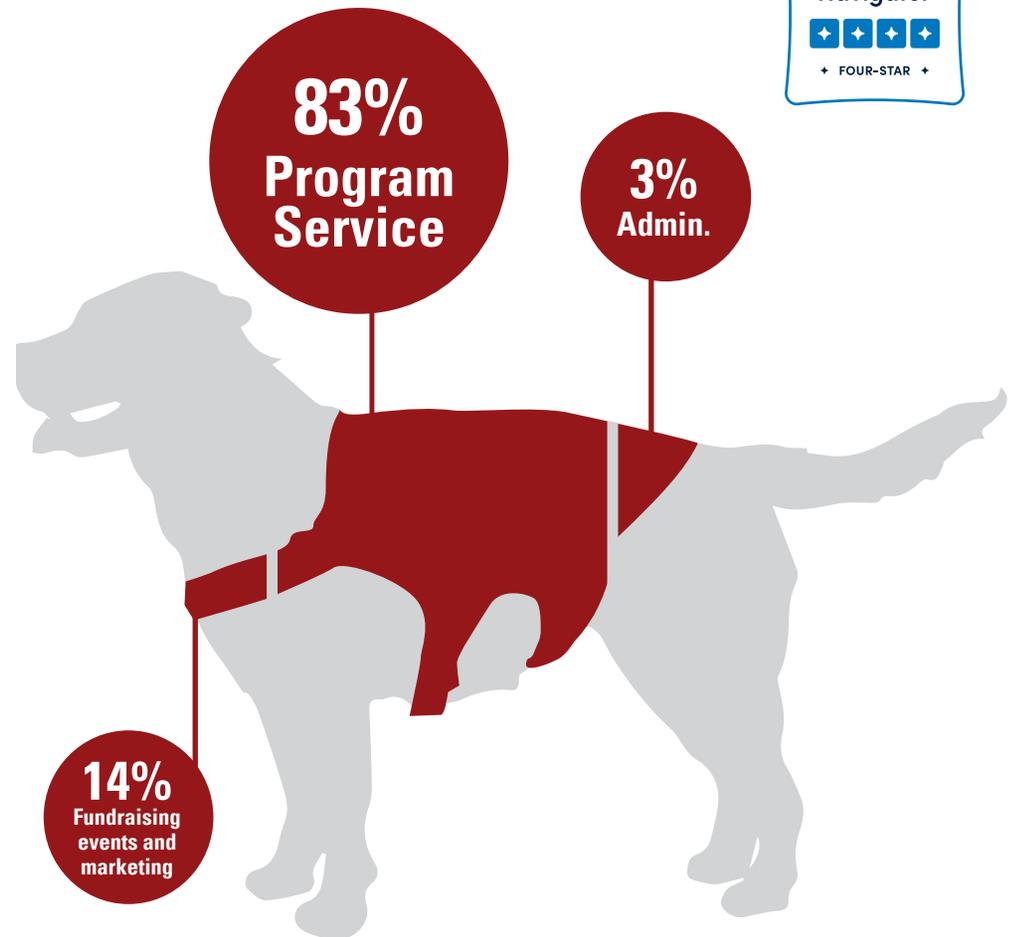
Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +



ACCREDITED BY



TPI independently examines and evaluates nonprofits to identify those doing only the finest work and engaging in best practices that most effectively support our nation's armed forces communities.

www.ThePatriotsInitiative.org

GRAHAM BLOEM, ABCDT CO-FOUNDER | PRESIDENT

Graham's passion for helping and working with dogs and veterans runs deep. He has been a professional dog trainer for 22 years and has extensive animal related business and management experience.

KYRIÉ BLOEM, MS CO-FOUNDER | VICE PRESIDENT | BOARD SECRETARY

As the Administrative Director for our program, Kyrié plans all events and fundraising programs, serves as our grant writer, coordinates our volunteer team, and facilitates day to day operations of the charity.

KRYSTYNA HOLC, CPA CO-FOUNDER | TREASURER

Krys keeps all Shelter to Soldier financials organized and ensures our program is working to its fullest potential for efficiency. She is the Vice President and CFO of Goodsell and Company CPA firm.

NICKY MOORE, BS BOARD MEMBER

Nicky is our Director of Training and Operations, and a graduate of Animal Behavior College's Professional Dog Training Certification program. Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Nicky has a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management. Nicky joined the Shelter to Soldier team in 2017 as a Dog Training Assistant and has rapidly grown into a talented dog trainer and excellent leader, with a wealth of knowledge in this field. When she's not leading this pack, she loves doing Therapy Work with STS Canine Ambassador (and Nicky's personal dog), Moose, as well as training and hiking with her Dutch Shepherd, Bodhi and "Pocket Pittie", Swayze.

MICHAEL FORD BOARD MEMBER

Michael is a San Diego native passionate about supporting the communities in which we live and work. He has worked with Cox for nearly 20 years and is a member of their Public Affairs team, specifically focused on Community Relations and corporate giving. He currently oversees the programs and support for the Cox Charities Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cox, which to date has now given over 10 million dollars throughout Southern California. Mike is passionate about animal rescue.

DR. LIZ GREY, DVM BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Grey is a veterinary doctor and owner of a private practice Carmel Mountain Ranch Veterinary Hospital, located in Carmel Mountain Ranch, San Diego. She has been practicing veterinary medicine for 33 years and her family is very patriotic. With a desire to give back to the brave men and women who protect our freedoms and a love for animals, Dr. Grey feels honored to serve on the Board of Directors for Shelter to Soldier.

DAVID MOSS, LCSW BOARD MEMBER

David has been working as a clinical social worker since 2001 in many capacities. He has had the honor of working in the private sector, public sector at the County, State, and Federal levels, multiple non-profit arenas, and in various medical, educational, research, and home health settings. Working full-time for the Department of Veteran Affairs for the past 11 years, David currently serves as the Mental Health Clinic Coordinator for the entire North County Region of San Diego providing clinical and administrative coordination/oversight of the North County Outpatient Mental Health Clinics.

BRIAN LUKACZ BOARD MEMBER

Brian is originally from the east coast but moved to San Diego when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton. Brian flew helicopters in the Marine Corps for 13 years and completed two combat tours in Iraq in '04-'05. Seeing the ravages of PTSD on his fellow veterans first hand has made him determined to help support Shelter to Soldier. He also loves dogs and has three Rhodesian Ridgebacks at home.



LEADERSHIP | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHELTER TO SOLDIER



**Bringing Post-9/11 Veterans
Together with Trained,
Rescue Dogs to Help
Both Recover and
Move Forward**

**Become a lifesaver today at
shelertosoldier.org**

Mailing Address
2366 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Facility Address
3308 Mission Ave.
Oceanside, CA 92058

760.870.5338
shelertosoldier.org
[@shelertosoldier](https://twitter.com/shelertosoldier)



"This Impact Report dedicated to the legacy of Service Dog Jade, who served as a steadfast companion to her Veteran, Chris, for 9 years. Rest in Peace, Jade."